

LESSON 18

HIJRAH OF RASULULLAH (S)

Thirteenth Year of Prophethood

The news of Islam's success in Yathrib made the *Kuffar* extremely angry. Their leaders met and finally decided to kill Rasulullah (S). But Allah had different plans for him. Allah had first asked him to advise the Muslims to make *Hijrah* quietly to Yathrib. By this example we learn that one's ties to Islam come before his relationships to his country, property, and relatives. Therefore, if Muslims are unable to practice Islam in one place, they are required by Allah to migrate to a country where they can be free.

Hijrah is a very important aspect of Islam. We shall talk about it in more detail in Part II of this book. Allah says in the Quran, "O My servants, indeed My earth is spacious. Therefore serve Me alone." (*al-Ankabut* 29:56). Thus, a Muslim must be free to serve Allah alone, no matter where he lives.

The Prophet (S) told Allah's commandment to Muslims. They all replied to him they would go wherever he would ask them to go, though all of them loved their city, Makkah, and their homes. But the Muslims loved their Prophet (S) and their religion more than their lives, their country, and their homes. They were prepared to do everything for the sake of Allah.

Rasulullah (S) asked them to go to Yathrib one by one so that the *Kuffar* would not notice it. Rasulullah (S), being their leader, stayed until all of them were safely gone. Finally, only Rasulullah(S), his close friend, Abu Bakr(R), his loving cousin, Ali(R) and a few other helpless Muslims were left. Makkans had seen how Muslims had quietly disappeared. They feared that if Prophet Muhammad(S) went to Yathrib, he would become very powerful. Yathrib was on the northern trade route of the Makkan caravan. Muslim power in Yathrib could become a threat to their business and trade. The best solution, they thought, was to kill the Prophet(S).

Rasulullah(S) used to go to Kabah very early in the morning for *Salat*. All the Makkans decided to unite to kill Prophet Muhammad (S) because they feared revenge from the family of Banu Hashim. All the leaders of the various tribes in Makkah decided to surround his house at night and to attack him together.

Allah, through a revelation, told Rasulallah(S) about the plans of the *Kuffar*. The night that the *Kuffar* surrounded his house, Rasulallah(S) was asked by Allah to leave for Yathrib. He had to pass through the *Kuffar* who were well armed and ready to kill him. This was a test for Muhammad's faith in divine commandment. Rasulallah (S) was obedient to Allah and had no fears of the consequences.

He had one big problem which he had to settle before leaving. He had a lot of things from the Makkans which he was keeping in trust. The Makkans did not believe in him as a prophet, but they had full faith in him as an honest person. There were no bank safes in those days. People wanted to entrust their things to someone whom they trusted. Since Rasulallah (S) was trusted by all the Makkans, both Muslims and non-Muslims brought their jewelry, money, and other valuables to Rasulallah(S) for safe custody. Thus, Rasulallah(S) had many such things in trust for others. He must return them before he could leave.

This way, he tried to show us that a Muslim must always be just, honest, and trustworthy, even to his enemies and even when he faces a threat to his life.

Rasulallah (S) asked Ali (R), his cousin, to stay and return these things to their owners the next morning. Ali(R), was very brave. He was so happy to be serving the Prophet(S) that he went to sleep in the bed of Rasulallah(S). People stood outside to kill the Prophet(S). But Ali(R) had no fears. He did not care about death if it came while serving Rasulallah(S). His faith was firm. Later he said, "I had the best sleep of my life that night."

Late at night, when Rasulallah (S) came out, he saw his house surrounded by the *Kuffar*. He recited the verse from *Surah YaSin*, "And We (Allah) have covered them and they cannot see." (36:9). Allah made the *Kuffar's* eyes temporarily blind. They could not see Rasulallah(S) as he left.

He went to the house of his dear friend, Abu Bakr (R), and then together they left for Yathrib.

Points of review:

1. The *Kuffar* decided to kill Rasulallah(S) and one night surrounded his house.

2. Allah helped Rasulullah (S) to leave his house safely, and the *Kuffar* did not see him..
3. Ali (R) stayed behind to return the things of other people that Rasulullah (S) kept in trust.

Words to remember

Custody, entrust, *Hijrah*.

Quranic Study:

1. The Quran teaches us never to betray the trust and to return the deposits to their owners.

Read, *al-Baqarah* 2:283 *al-Nisa* 4:58; *al-Anfal* 8:27; *al-Mu'minun* 23:8; *al-Ma'arij* 70:32

2. The Muslim society cannot be built on law and regulations alone but personal qualities of its members' character. Read *Surah Isra'* 17:22-39, 53, 78, 79.

What qualities of character does Allah want the Muslims to possess?

